offices for 1994-95 are yet to be finalised.

(c) No, Sir. All villages are covered by postal services. Out of 810 gram ptnchayat villages, 602 have post offices. Of the remaining 208 villages only 2 villages justify post offices as per present norms.

(d) Question do:s not arise in view of reples to (a) to (c) above.

STB facilities in Andhra Pradesh

920. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposed steps to extend STD facility to more pla ces in West Godaveri District in Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95; and

(b) is so, the details of measures proposed to be taken to extend STD in Kest Godavari in 1994-95?

THE; .MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM); (a) and (b) (i) Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange of 1000 lines capacity has been planned at Eluru in West Godaveri.

(ii) 7 more places namely; P'araval. , Veeravasaram Vendra, Vegeswarapuram; Gundugolam, Koyyalagu dem and Nallajerla in West Goda-veri District are proposed to be linked to the STD network during 94-95 subject to the availability of resource such as funds equipment, land buildiing etc.

Change in procedure for allotting ISD/STD booths

921. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed the priority pattern for allot ting the ISD/STD booths to the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if' so, the details with reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to review this decision;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not the reasons theteior?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAMI); (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) The policy of Department of Teleom. in the matters of allotment of STD/ISD payphone is in consonance with the programme of the Government to provide greater employment opprtunities to educated unemployed by way of allotment of payphones. However preference is given to the following categories of while selecting the allottees-

(a) Handicapped including blind persons.

(b) SC/ST applicants.

(c) Ex-servicemen/War Widows.

(d) Retired DOT employees or their dependent.

(e) Dependents of Freedom. Fighters.

(f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals .

Waiting list of telephones in Karnataka

922. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total nuumber of waiting list of Telephones in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are committed to clear this waiting list by

the end. of the year as per the statement of the Hdn'ble Minister for Communications at Bangalore;

(a) if so, how many new equipment are being added and what is the total cost of the new equipments ;

(d) how much funds for installing the new equipments have been released so far and what is the balance funds to be released to Karnataka Telecom Circle; and

(e) by when Grovernmen will release the balance Fund to complete the work

The MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION'S (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The total number of Wailing list in Kanataka as on 30.6.94 is 1,76,613.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) Rs. 308 crores has been releaser for Karnataka for carrying out capital works plaane-i during 1994-95. The additional amount required, if any, will be considered -at an appropriate time. However- additional equipment to be purchased on leasing basis will also be provided for this circle in order to liquidate tee waiting list.

Increase in Excise Duty on machinery

923. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR;
SHRIMATT VEENA, VERMA :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINI*:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

with the Minister of FINANCE be pleaded- to refer to the answer to , Starred Question 181 given in- the Rajya-Sabha on 8th March, 1994 and state" - -

(a) what decision has since been taken on demands to issue a notification to waive the inadvertent in- crease in eixcise duty on machinery, plant and laboitetory equipments which treats material by condensing ! or cooling other than refrigeration and airconditioning machinery^ under the head 84.19, for the period February 28 to April 23, 1993 and whether such notification has since been issued; if not the reasons for the delay;

(b) the reason that the duty on these items was not reduced to 10 per cent as contemplated under the said head, in. the Memorandum appended to the Finance Act Bill/Act. 1993 but was restored to the Pre-budget level- of 15 per cent; and

(c) whether responsibility for the unintended increase from 15 per cent to HO per cent instead of reduction to 10 per cent under the said provisions lias been fixed; if so on whom and if not, the reasons thereor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EST THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M! V- CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY):, (a) The matter is still under active consideration with ference to the existing level provisions under the ventral excise law.

(b) The memorandum explaining . the provisions in ,the Finiance Bill- 1993 refer to reduction in excise duty in specified capital goods falling| with in Chapters 84 85 and 90 of theCentral Excise Tariff, Since therewag no intention to raise the duty on the goods-' described in part fa) of this question, it was decided to- restore the pre-budget rate of 15. per cent on.these goods.

(c) The'"description of the goods was changed without any intention of changing the scope of the examption. The error- was entirely.due to . inadvesrtance. ' '